

**MINUTES**  
*of the*  
**SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**DATE:** February 3, 2004

**PLACE:** 550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vice Chair Olivia Rodriguez, Directors David Davis, Brian Fahnestock, Lee Moldaver, and Interim General Manager Sherrie Fisher

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Browning Allen and Dan Secord (City of Santa Barbara) Mike Powers, (Santa Barbara County Association of Governments-SBCAG) Annmarie Rogers, (Visitor Center) Nancy Johnson, (Santa Barbara Botanic Garden) Mary Byrd, (Santa Barbara Car Free/Air Pollution Control District-APCD) Jerry Estrada, Lynnette Coverly, David Damiano and Barbra Nelson (MTD).

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- 1. Call to Order**  
Vice Chair Olivia Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.
- 2. Roll Call of the Board of Directors**  
Vice Chair Rodriguez noted that all Board members were present except Chair John Britton.
- 3. Report Regarding Posting of Agenda**  
The MTD Board Clerk Barbra Nelson reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters and on the MTD Website last week and mailed to media of general circulation.
- 4. Approval of Prior Minutes**  
Director Lee Moldaver moved to waive the reading of, and approve the minutes of January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Director David Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- 5. Cash Report**  
Director Davis moved to accept the cash report for January 13th through January 26th, 2004. Director Fahnestock asked if the PacificCare Insurance was for all employees and if the payment was for a whole year. General Manager Sherrie Fisher explained it was for staff for the month of January 1 through January 31, 2004. Director Fahnestock seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- 9. Field Trip Recommendation (Line 22)**  
(Vice Chair Rodriguez moved this item number forward to accommodate attendees.)  
Ms. Fisher introduced Planning Manager Steve Maas who reviewed the plan to continue the Field Trip route on weekends on demand with no change to service or fare structure and to reevaluate in 2005. Director Fahnestock asked how the service compared with other unmet transit needs. The General Manager reported that this service was wrapped into a preexisting schedule and the other unmet needs pertain to overloads.  
  
Nancy Johnson of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden addressed the Board and thanked all the people who had worked together on the Field Trip. Ms. Johnson stated that they would prefer a daily service because of the unique needs of narrow/winding roads, but they were very supportive of the effort.  
  
Mary Byrd of Santa Barbara Car Free addressed the Board reporting that this transit service was very important to limit pollution caused by visitors using their cars.  
  
Annemarie Rodgers of the Santa Barbara Visitors Center thanked Director Moldaver and MTD staff for the solution oriented plan emphasizing this would be the first time for year-round service and, although they would prefer a regular stop, they would work hard to promote the service.  
  
Director Davis moved to accept the plan and Director Fahnestock seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- 6. Public Comment**  
There was no public comment.

**7. Budget Revisions**

The General Manager introduced Controller Jerry Estrada, who reviewed the quarterly financial report and proposed budget revisions. Director Fahnestock gave a presentation on some of the unique accounting requirements and reporting for the District emphasizing the major problem is the inability to set aside funds to replace aging and depreciated vehicles. Mr. Estrada thanked Director Fahnestock for working together with him. There will be a workshop at the Board's next meeting to go over the Fiscal '04/05 Budget.

**8. Downtown Waterfront Electric Shuttle (DWE)**

The General Manager reviewed some of the history leading to the negotiations and requested that the Board authorize her to finalize the DWE contract. The City of Santa Barbara (City) Transportation, Streets and Parking Manager, Browning Allen reported that he was anxious to present the contract to the City Council and complimented and thanked the MTD staff for their cooperation and open communication. Director Moldaver moved to authorize Ms. Fisher to finalize the contract and Director Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**10. South Coast Transit Priorities**

Ms. Fisher reported that MTD staff is proposing amendments on Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funds to include downsizing to 22-foot electric or 30-foot diesel buses, a Downtown Circulator for employees, Super Stops at Anapamu and Anacapa, replacing 3 DWE Shuttles, and a Sub-regional Commuter to be presented at the Santa Barbara Association of Governments (SBCAG) March meeting. Director Moldaver responded that although the technology for electric buses might almost be there, the market is not and what's missing is the service on the streets. Mike Powers from SBCAG suggested MTD ask for a re-evaluation using criteria of reducing vehicle emissions and emphasizing diesel. He noted that the County had some success in lobbying Senator Boxer regarding the receipt of funds after attainment of clean air standards. Mr. Powers suggested the best place to bring these issues would be the Technical Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC).

**11. General Manager/Staff Report**

Sherrie Fisher reported that:

- Community Relations Manager, David Damiano is working on Transit Center reconfiguration and meeting with the City Redevelopment Agency staff.
- Maintenance Manager Ralph Brannan has been granted his request for early retirement.
- Brad Davis will be assisting with Special Projects for Information Technology (IT) on a temporary basis.
- The External Affairs Committee has scheduled meetings with the North County officials.
- The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) conference in Santa Monica was excellent and gave opportunity to talk with other General Managers and seek information on AB98.
- MTD has been able to reduce cost on staff insurance with a minimum reduction in benefits.
- The MTD staff and Director Rodriguez have been working with School Principals on prevention of vandalism and plans presentations to PTA's and ELAC meetings..
- MTD is considering whether to bid on the Clean Air Express service.
- The Santa Barbara Bank and Trust agreement for ATM selling of MTD passes is an exclusive contract.
- MTD has not had time to work on the Military pass question.
- MTD staff has provided information to bus driver Sharon Simkins to help her with her report to the Board on driver breaks. It will be added to the agenda when she is ready.

**12. Other Business and Committee Reports**

- Director Davis reported on the External Affairs Committee meeting with Carpenteria's Mayor, Council Members and Staff where future service was discussed.
- Director Fahnestock suggested a detailed discussion related to salary for a new General Manager (GM) and also the Interim GM at the next meeting.
- Director Moldaver said the external affairs committee is still trying to set up meetings with the City of Goleta to discuss revisions to South Coast Transit Priorities.

**13. Recess to Closed Session**

The Board recessed to closed session pursuant to Government Code §54957, Public Employee Appointment, Title: General Manager. The Board reported out of the session that no action was taken.

**14. Adjournment**

Director Fahnestock moved to adjourn and Director Moldaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.